

## **Technician's Report – Corrina Aldrich – 03/07/14**

**Ag Plastics Baler:** The weather is keeping the baler under cover and off the road; folks are interested in using it but finding a good weather window has been challenging.

The baler has been at Dan Tilley's and is now at Darflar's. It will then go to Richard Smith in Saratoga County, probably sometime around March 7.

**AEM:** Working with Bill Lundy, Scott Michael, Soliphilia Farm, and Anuszewski Dairy.

**Projects:** Planning Game of Logging Trainings for the year with Janet at ASA, as well as discussing other potential workshop ideas like soil health-agroforestry.

Game of Logging Level 2 Training is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> - which is the same day as Tree pickups, but other than introductions first thing in the morning (7:30 am) we are not really needed there for duration of the day.

### **Meeting/Trainings**

Vermont Grazing and Livestock Conference: Excellent speakers, economics, fencing, and livestock handling; learned a great deal.

Silvo-Pasture and Greenup Grassfed: Great lineup of speakers and presenters who are excited about the benefits of using livestock as tools to help build soil health and productivity, and the rapid gains that can be realized with proper management of these tools. Jeff Moyer from the Rodale Institute and Research Farm gave a very thought provoking presentation about using mature cover crops as a mulch layer in row crop systems, the concept is for weed suppression, moisture retention, and increased organic matter.

Whitman's Annual Meeting: Animal Nutrition and crop harvesting

Annie's Project Sessions - looks like it is going to be a very informative course – March 6

RC&D meeting – January 28

Legislative Days February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> met with S. Betty Little, S. Machionne (staffer), and A. Dan Stec

Ag non-point informational webinar – February 24

RC&D Meeting – February 25

DEC meeting in Warrensburg for Red Top Farm Consent Order – March 4

Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference – March 5

Troy Bishopp was here to meet with the Adirondack Grazers Group and others to outline Holistic Managed Grazing and introduce folks to the wall charts that he has to simplify this planning method, and think about “working backwards to plan ahead” using Lisa Randle’s of White Clover farm as an example of how to start filling your grazing chart now.

Troy Bishopp and I presented a program on using a grazing chart to plan out the grazing season to the Adirondack Grazers Group and other interested parties on February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at CCE. Troy liked an article I wrote about grazing tall and small and the PowerPoint I created to go with it, and encouraged me to have it posted on the On Pasture website.

I have also organized to have Pete Smallidge, the State Forester, come and work with Rich McDermott of DEC to mark trees for a crop tree release with the desire to move the 3 acre stand in the direction of silvo-pasture utilization in the future. It may require a couple of cuts, but could prove to be a nice demonstration site if it works out. I will invite a couple of Finch Pruyn foresters to come as well should they be interested, but as it will need to be a workday to get trees marked it will be more of a professional development day than an open to the public workshop - Scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Technical Assistance**

Soliphilia Farm: Beginning farmer with a lot of questions regarding prioritizing the best way to get started with a vegetable operation and adding some livestock by means of inviting some other farmers to work in cooperative manner on their landscape.

Met with Myra Lawyer about utilizing some funds that she has to spend in the Lake Champlain Basin for pasture renovation and riparian buffer plantings. We identified some farms to target that fit the criteria for the funding; they have to be non-CAFO farms that have conservation plans and grazing plans.

Assisting Bob with Ag Assessment duties and answering landowner questions

Dropped Tree Order Forms off at a few locations

### **Upcoming**

Continue with Annie’s Project sessions – March 13

Round 20 Ag Non Point grant deadline – March 31

Game of Logging Level 2 Training – April 26